THE FANTASTIC FANZINE

#6
60¢

IN THIS ISSUE:

RANDY ZIMMERMAN INTERVIEW

CORONA

TINKER TALON of THE ANIVERSE

MOON KNIGHT REVIEWED

and, of course, DA SNOOP!

RANDY ZIMMERMAN 2/14/85

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GODZILLA VS. YE GOOD OL' EDITORS PAGE

This is the third editor's page I have written since taking over the position. I am glad I was given this opportunity, because I have learned many things, and met many knew people, both in person and by mail. Six months ago I didn't know page layouts or reduction percentages or mock-ups. The most important lesson, however, is the one about responsibility.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of free press. This is the reason Fantastic Fanzine and, in fact, comic books themselves can exist. This is a wonderful freedom, one of many we enjoy in this country. But, freedome are only good when exercised with a sense of responsibility. This holds true with Fantastic Fanzine. By way of explanation, I want to relate a true story.

I recently received a note from a person on the east coast regarding a fan publication he wanted to start. Naturally, wanting to be aware of new developments in the field, I gave him a call. As we talked, I got the impression that this person was disillusioned with the major comic book companies, which was why he wanted to start up his own mag. This is all well and good. Next, he began telling me about his recent (meaning a few days before we were speaking) trip to the headquarters of Marvel Comics Group.

His account was not good at all. According to him, everyone there was unfriendly, the office itself was dingy, unorganized, actually dirty. This was hardly what he expected from the vast, complex, and money-ridden Marvel.

Now, before I go on any further, I must state that this is not an accurate picture. Not five months ago, I was there myself to interview Carl Potts. It was very modern, everyone we spoke to was friendly. It was a relaxed environment, but, orderly as an office should be.

So, why did this person tell me this tell? Did he mistakenly wander into the wrong office (or, more likely, the wrong end of town) in his search for the Marvel office? No, I think it was something far more sinister. This person was of the opinion that all Marvel and DC comics were "garbage" and, in order to sully Marvel's image, chose to feed misleading information to a small comic magazine in the midwest, conveniently far from New York City (he had not actually seen a copy of FF, so he did not know we had already been there ourselves).

If he was expecting some scandalous article to result from our conversation, he was mistaken. Even if I had not seen the place myself, I would not print anything derogatory about Marvel, DC, or anyone else, without being sure of the truth of the matter. In good conscience, I could not, knowing the power of the printed word. 'They wouldn't print it if it wasn't true.'

On the other hand, if I was assigned to review a book, and I wasn't too impressed by the story and/or art, I wouldn't hesitate to say so. This is my opinion and I have the right to express it. Hopefully, this would always be in good taste.

I am involved with Fantastic Fanzine first of all because I am a comic book reader and collector. The things that are right and wrong about comics I will strive to point out, but, always in a positive manner. There are a lot of things I think could or should be changed about the comic industry, but, I cannot spend all my time poking t through the negative aspects of my hobby. If this were true, why should I be into comics in the first place? If there are changes to be made, let's do what we can positively to make them. If you are really so against comics, you still have the right to ultimate protest by getting out of the hobby entirely.

FANTASTIC FANZINE Vol.1, No.6, March, 1985 issue. Published by FANTASY UNLIMITED, 317 N. Cross, Ypsilanti, Mich., 48197. Published monthly. All characters contained herein © 1985 by FANTASY UNLIMITED unless otherwise indicated.

Okay, now that that's off my chest, let me tell you about this issue and some future happenings. First off, I'd like to thank Randy Zimmerman for his contributions to the mag this month. He's managed to do a total of 13 pages of art for us, with an assist from Tim Dzon, who inked the new CORONA. Check out the interview with Randy to find out more about him.

A special thanks to Joe Brazeau, a good friend of ours from sunny Florida, who revamped some of our logos, did some artwork around the 'zine and helped out in too many little ways to count. And he was on his vacation, too. Wotta guy!

Thumbing through the mag, you may notice that JOHNNY GAMBIT is missing. Have no fear, our friend Alan Oldham will return next issue. He's trying to fit doing a six-page story into a schedule that includes a job and going to school among many other projects.

One of FF's upcoming projects will be a contest for the new logo for the mag. It's on hold right now, because we're debating splitting FANTASTIC FANZINE into two monthly books: FANTASTIC STRIPZINE, which would be an all art and strip type format either 24 or 32 pages long; and, FANTASTIC FANZINE or FANTASTIC NEWSLETTER, which would be an all text (possibly with some illos) mag. So, if you have any ideas for logos or even new names for the book(s), keep 'em on the backburner. We'll keep you posted on the details.

One last note (I bet you tho't this editor's page would go on forever), the opinions expressed in Da Snoop column are not neccesarily those of the FANTASTIC FANZINE itself or of its subscribers.

Later Days,

Stev

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! SAVE HER!
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE REALLY MEDUSA MAN!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE. I'M LEAVING
Sports on Cable...
EEEK!!! HELP! HELP!

© Ben Siegerson

next issue:

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FOOLS RUSH OUT

FULL PAGE: $50.00
Original size: 17½in. height; 11 in. width

HALF PAGE: $30.00
Original size: 8½ in. height; 11in. width

QUARTER PAGE: $16.00
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b) The issue number you wish your ad to appear
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MOON KNIGHT #1
PUBLISHER: Marvel
SCRIPT: Zelenetz
PENCILS: Warner
INKS: Cruz

This is one Marc Spector fan who is happy with volume two of the Moon Knight series. The first issue of the second volume starts off by briefly recapping the origin of the Moon Knight as was told in the first issues of the original series. So concise was the retelling of the origin that even one who remembers the origin will not be bored in the least with rereading the tale. Those who did not have the chance to read it the first time will not be left in the dark, as all the pertinent information is included, so that the new reader is, for the most part, just as informed as is necessary to fully understand the new story line.

Old fans should not be disappointed as the new storyline is consistant with the old. Mr. Zelenetz has done an excellent job in keeping within the history of the first volume. Warner and Cruz have also done a wonderful job on the visual department.

New readers should not be discouraged, as knowlege of the first volume is not necessary as the storyline is new and is not just a continuation of the first. It does pick up where the first left off, but, where knowlege of the first volume is necessary, it appears the writer is planning to provide it for the reader unfamiliar with the first series.

However, those readers seeking historical consistencies with a working knowlege in the area of ancient Egyptian history may find some blatant errors. The error I happened upon was that the writer referred to the god Anubis as Keeper of Souls. Anubis was Guardian of the Tomb, a god who was not evil, whose function in the mythos was a noble one. This, of course, does not detract from the overall story, but, does cause one who knows the true nature of Anubis to pause at every mention of the god's name when it has been used to infer an evil aura about his existence.

In sum, as a comic book, Moon Knight #1 is as fine a book as any on the market today. The second volume is well capable of becoming one of the best in the Marvel stables, as long as its creative team stays at its current pitch.

And, as a final note, I would like to applaud Marvel who decided to return my Moon Knight.

Dear Stuart, Ralph, & Robert;

What can one say? Your fanzine is great! It's constantly improving issue after issue, in both written and artistic quality. I love the new paper (too bad you didn't do this sooner!).

As far as my comments on your fourth issue go...

Pg.1 (cover): No comments necessary; a picture is worth a thousand words, all of them praising Mr.Loebs. Nice work, Bill.

Pgs. 2&3: Allways something of interest here. Sorry to hear that Jeff & Roy have left this 'zine, and hope it will continue with their same brand of quality.

Pg.4: 'Hot Box' is a good market update that I allways enjoy. An added note to your report on Elementals #1; it's selling as high as $10 in some places.

Pgs.5-7: The interview with Mr.Loebs is well done, and I look forward to it's conclusion.

Pgs.8-11: The 'Corona' strip is my favorite comic in this mag. The art is much better than last issue and Jim made an effort to improve his lettering and it shows.

Pg.12: 'Study Break' brings back a few memories, and proves, once again, that comics aren't only for grade-school kids.

Pg.13: He's back! The Unknown Swami has returned to tickle my funny bone. Whatever you do, don't lose this guy!

Pg.14: 'Da Snoop' iz O.K. in diz fan's book!

Pgs.15-20: 'Johnny Gambit' is an unusual comic, but it's nothing new. We've all seen private eye stuff before, and the bizzare setting (more like a punk-filled Oz than a city!) and expletive language doesn't help. Sorry, Alan.

Pg.21: Quality stuff here; keep up the good work, Mike!

Pg.24: Top 36... everyone out there in the "Fandom Zone" support your local fanzine and vote!

Sincerely,
Andy Chwastek
225 Hartsough
Plymouth, Mi.
48170

PHASING OUT THE MAGIC !

by: John P. Parrish III

In mid-1961 Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, and Marvel Comics introduced the FANTASTIC FOUR. The inspiration for the FF, at least on then-publisher Martin Goodman's part, was purly the sales figures of DC's super-team the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. Lee, however, had and enough of writing throw-away comic stories. He wanted to experament with the Fantastic Four, make them more than just another collection of cardboard characters with wierd powers.

Stan gave Reed, Sue, Johnny, and Ben personalities that had a bit more depth than other super-heroes of the time. Their stories were a little more complex. Stan also decreed that continuity between stories would be taken seriously. What was established in one issue would not be forgotten or greatly altered in a later one.

More titles and heroes were added to the Marvel line and Stan stuck to his decision. Spider-Man, the Hulk, Thor, Dr. Strange, and Dardevil all lived on the same earth. They often met one another and fought the same villains. Stories over-lapped from one book to another and more details were added to the trapestry that was to become known as Marvel Earth. To be sure, mistakes were often made and quite a few inconsistencies did pop up. But over-all the scenario held.

No one in those early days of Marvel, not even Stan, ever dreamed that these characters would last as long as they have. Years went by and new writers entered the Bullpen, their minds brimming with ideas. More and more concepts were wove into the Marvel mythos: Atlantis, the Inhumans, the various god pantheons, the Savage Land, Wakanda, Latveria, the subterraneans, Lemuria, the Cat People, the Eternals, the Deviants. Marvel Earth was becoming a Marvel Universe.

At the beginning it was intended that the world in Marvel comics would more or less be the same as the real one, except for the prescence of super-heroes and super-villains of course. Yet as more lost races and mythical realms were discovered, Marvel Earth appeared to be increasingly a reality unto itself. The incredible super-science employed by S.H.I.E.L.D., Hydra, AIM, and others furthered the seperation between fiction and fact.

An abundance of such fantastic elements do not necessarily mean that a made-up setting has gone beyond the point where belief can be suspended for the enjoyment of a story. If handled well said elements might add to the richness of the tale, examples being Tolkien's Middle-Earth, Burroughs' Barsoom, and even Gene Roddenberry's STAR TREK universe. All have places, devices, and people unique to themselves. Yet a basic set of facts or history is established and, more importantly, adhered to in all the adventures taking place in these dimensions of imagination. Relationships, both obvious and subtle, between civilizations and even individual beings are clearly stated. A reader can perceive these universes as having sets of natural laws as complex and true to them as the laws that govern our plane of existance are to us. A reader is drawn in and accepts the reality.

Still, many in fandom felt that the Marvel Universe had become too large and complex to deal with. It was hard to take seriously an invasion of the Earth by the Kree or the Skrulls (let alone the Toad-Men). If none of Earth's army of superbeings (both good and evil) couldn't stop them, then the invaders would still have to defeat the advanced Eternals or Inhumans, not to mention the weapons of Latveria developed by Dr. Doom. It can be supposed that Asgaed or Olympus would not stand by and let their one time worshippers be enslaved or slaughtered. I don't think that even Chthon and the Elder Gods wouldn't object to having the world they once ruled and hope to again over-run by aliens. The combined population of super-beings, mutants, androids/robots, demons/monsters, wizards, and non-humans like the Atlanteans, was considerable indeed. In short, Marvel Earth had too many protectors.

Also it was argued that there was too much for new readers to learn. No one could just pick up and read say, THOR #300, without having a working knowledge of Asgard's history or that of the Eternals to appreciate all the long time mysteries that were tied up much less fully understand or enjoy the tale itself. Some writers felt hindered by this also.

It would seem that the publication of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE a year or so back was the straw that broke the camel's back. If someone had to refer to an encyclopedia nearly ever time they read a Marvel comic book, then maybe

(continued on page 20...)

REINTRODUCING...
CORONA
SON · OF · MYSTIC LYTE
TURN HERALD! IF YOU PLAN TO WASTE THIS PLANET YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST!!!
THIS IS CORONA. WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HE'S HAD TO FLEE FROM HIS HOMEWORLD ESPES, ONLY TO CRASHLAND IN DETROIT.* AND NOW HE HAS TO CONFRONT "THE HERALD OF DEATH!" NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT'S BEEN A SHITTY DAY.!!
* IN FANTASTIC FANZINE #13
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!?
THIS IS "THE HERALD OF DEATH," KNOWN THROUGHOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE AS A PAID WASTER OF WORLDS. (THE OTHER THIRD KNOWS OF HIM AS ROCCO LOLUNDA OF THE CAN-CAN ROTUNDA, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.) HE IS HERE TO DESTROY US.
THIS IS LARRY CANNON CHANNEL 4 NEWS. HE'S ABOUT TO EMCEE THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY!
MAKE SURE YOU GET THIS JOHN!
THIS IS SONIC HAMPSTER. HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS STORY.
RANDY ZIMMERMAN
HECK, HE ISN'T EVEN IN DETROIT!
THIS IS...
CHAPTER 3: THE CONFRONTATION
I AM CORONA, SON OF MYSTIC LYTE! PROTECTOR OF THIS PLANET! LEAVE NOW, HERALD, OR I WILL ANNIHILATE YOU!!
OH YEAH?!? YEAH!?
LAD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FIRST, QUAKE WITH FEAR, OR PICK MY NOSE!!
INKS: TIM DZON
WRITING, PENCILS AND LETTERING: RANDY ZIMMERMAN
CORONA COPYRIGHT ©1985 by JIM MILLER and TIM DZON ABUSED WITH PERMISSION.
JIM MILLER HAS JUMPED BAIL, AND IS NOW HEADING TOWARDS CALIFORNIA!

EAT MYSTIC LYTE, YOU CRUD!!*
OOMPH!
POINK!
FFAZAP!
*ESPES SLANG FOR "TAKE THAT!"
THE MAN CALLING HIMSELF "CORONA" HAS SHOT A BOLT OF SOME TYPE AT "THE HERALD OF DEATH", KNOCKING HIM BACK INTO HIS SHIP!
MEANWHILE...
GET A CLOSE-UP ON THE GUY IN THE AIR, JOHN!
ERIC!? WHERE DID HE GO?
ERIC?
HERE HE IS, FOLKS! THE MAN WHO COULD SAVE US ALL!!
THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS... ERIC!!? CORONA!
I MUST GO TO HIM!
BUT, IF I LEAVE NOW, I MIGHT MISS MY SOARS!
CORONA IS NOW JUST FIGHTING OUTSIDE OF THE HERALD'S SPACESHIP AS IF HE WERE WAITING FOR A SUB-PLOT TO FINISH!
IT'S A CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE!!
"CLICK!"
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MOVEMENT NOW!
THAT WAS CINDY DANE. SHE FIRST MET CORONA. BATTERED, AND WEAK FROM HIS TRIP ACROSS THE UNIVERSE. ALL SHE KNOWS OF HIM IS THAT HE'S LIVING WITH HER, HE'S A SNAPPY DRESSER, AND "HE'S NOT FROM DETROIT." K. SHE THINKS SHE MIGHT BE IN LOVE.
* FANTASTIC FANZINE #3
** FANTASTIC FANZINE #4
ENOUGH OF THIS. BACK TO THE FIGHT!
INSOLENT DROPPING OF A G-LIP! NO ONE DOES THAT TO ME AND LIVES!*#@
*ROTUNDA SLANG FOR "FOOL! I'LL GET YOU FOR THAT!"

HMM... THIS "PUP" MUST HAVE THOSE HIGH ENERGY READINGS MY SCANNER PICKED UP!* HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE PRIME HOONAKI ALLINIFAPINNI! STILL THIS UPSTART OUTSIDE DESERVES TO DIE AT MY HANDS!! I'LL NEED MY HELMET!
* IN FANTASTIC FANZINE #3
NOW I FEEL LIKE A WARRIOR REBORN!
PREPARE TO DIE WORM! SO SPEAKS THE HERALD OF DEATH!!
I FEEL THE POWER OF MY RUNESWORD AS IT TEARS YOU TO...
OOMPH!!
FFACAP!
POINK!
YOU'RE STARTIN' TO GET ON MY NERVES BOY!!
AND I GAVE UP AN EVENING WITH "ASTEROID ANNIE" FOR THIS?! I NEED MY HEAD EXAMINED!!
EITHER FACE ME OR LEAVE, HERALD, I AM WAITING!!
'PUTER! ARE YOU ON?
WORKING.
SCAN CHALLENGER FOR ALIEN TYPE AND WEAKNESS!
SCANNING...

SUBJECT NAME : CORONA
ALIEN TYPE : HUMANOID
EXACT CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN.
SEX : MALE
HT : 5'10.5"
WT : 194 lbs.
EXACT BODY CHEMISTRY IS AS FOLLOWS...
HIS CHEMISTRY IS CLOSE TO AN ALLURIAN. HOW ABOUT HIS ENERGY SOURCE?
INTERNAL.
INTERNAL? SO, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I HIT HIM WITH A RADION BLAST?
UNKNOWN.
LET'S FIND OUT, SHALL WE?
WEAPON
FIRST, A LITTLE DISTRACTION.
"HWIPP!"
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, HERALD!!
BLOP!
OH YEAH?! HOW ABOUT THIS?!! YOU WIMP!
"WAAA!!!"
YAAAAAAAAAA!
4

THAT WAS A RADIATION BLAST OF SOME TYPE.
IT-IT'S AFFECTING ME STRANGELY! MUTATING ME...
I-TRANSFORMING ME!! CH-CHANGING ME I-INTO A... A... A...

IS THIS CHANGE PERMANENT?
WHAT WILL THE HERALD DO NOW THAT HE'S FIGHTING A WOMAN?
WILL HE MAKE A PASS?
WILL SHE ACCEPT?
WILL "ASTEROID ANNIE" BE JEALOUS?
WHAT ABOUT THAT SPIEDROID INTRODUCED LAST ISSUE?*
(WELL, HOW ABOUT LAST EPISODE?)
WILL HE BE IGNORED?
SHOULD HE BE IGNORED?
WILL JIM MILLER EVER HAVE THE COURAGE TO SHOW HIS FACE IN MICHIGAN AGAIN?
AND, NOW THAT HE'S BEEN INTRODUCED, WILL LARRY CANNON HAVE A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS STRIP?
THESE, AND MANY OTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE IGNORED IN OUR NEXT EXCITING EPISODE!

* FANTASTIC FANZINE #4

Welcome to another installment of the 'Hot Box'. If you haven't picked up a copy of TEENAGE NINJA MUTANT TURTLES #2...well, as a back issue (it's only 12 weeks old!), dealers are asking $5 to $7 already. You snooze, you lose.

A-V IN 3-D has been officially reported a sellout, so watch for this issue to soar above its $2 price tag.

Dealers at some of the local conventions have really been 'dumping' lately. You can pick up complete runs of TOMB OF DRACULA by Marv Wolfman and Gene Colan for about a quarter apeice. WEREWOLF BY NIGHT is another example at two bits a crack.

We hope you got your copy of CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS #1, because, prices on this item are creeping into the $2 range already.

Dealers are reporting low back issue sales for DC's OMEGA MEN. Since Keith Giffen left the title, its selling status has constantly been slowing down. On the other hand, sales on SAGA OF THE SWAMP-THING (especially the Alan Moore issues) are growing with every issue.

MR. MONSTER from Eclipse and MEGATON MAN from Kitchen Sink are both enjoying good early sales.

WEB OF SPIDERMAN #1 is reporting nice sales, while back issues of the book it replaced, MARVEL TEAM-UP, are selling slow to medium.

Until next month, here's one last tip: if you can still find a copy of DALGODA #1 at cover price (that is, if you can find a copy at all) snatch it up before it's too late!

THE UNKNOWN SWAMI

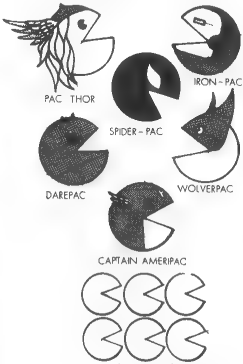
So, loyal followers of the Unknown Swami, once again this month, things have been brought to my viewing mind's eye for me to share with you.

First, with the success of the Eagle Comics character, Judge Dredd, the company will soon release many new spin-off maxi- and mini-series. Expect to see the likes of SON OF DREDD, MEGA CITY ONE'S FINEST, JUDGE DREDD VS. THE STREETWALKER, and JUDGE DREDD'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

Marvel will revamp one of their villains, changin the Puppet Master to Doctor Cabbage Patch. Following another craze, this time the HE MAN one, Marvel, in a controversial move, will change the She-Hulk to She-Woman. Captain America will take a gold medal for the U.S.A. in the '88 Olympics by using his shield in the luge.

And finally, in the wake of the Pac-Man craze, Marvel will release a series of one-shot 'Pac-Titles'. Below are a few examples. So, until next time--

"Parma si drawkcab dellpa amrap!"



FANTASTIC FANZINE

INTERVIEWS

RANDY ZIMMERMAN

Randy Zimmerman is one of a handful of 'professional' calibre artist/writers in the Michigan con scene. He has a multitude of characters and stories both already on paper and still running around in his head. Fantastic Fanzine is proud to spotlight Randy in this issue. He is the writer/penciller of the 'new' Corona, the writer/artist of Tinker Talon debuting this issue, and also did the cover for this issue.

FF: How long have you been interested in writing and drawing comic strips?

RZ: Well, I got started when I was eight years old, in third grade, when my uncle gave me a book called EASY WAY TO DRAW, put out by the Walter Lantz Studios. It showed how to draw all the Walter Lantz characters--Woody Woodpecker, etc. The main thing that drove me was that when I was very young my folks didn't allow me to have superhero comics in the house, so, other than the Batman TV show, superheroes were a very mysterious thing to me. So, I did a little research at the library, dug up ALL IN COLOR FOR A DIME, and Jules Viper's GREAT COMIC BOOK HEROES. By the time my folks allowed me to have superheroes, I knew all about them anyway.

FF: Who were you mainly influenced by when you started drawing?

RZ: I would say Carl Barks quite a bit, uh, whoever was doing Archie about 12-15 years ago. Then, when I started doing superheroes, it was the usual influences, except for C.C.Beck (Shazam). I really enjoyed C.C.Beck. In fact, the first superhero book my parents let me have was SHAZAM #1.

FF: What was your first original creation?

RZ: My first creation? Harry, the hairy hippy, sort of an Archie take-off, just a big mound of hair with a large round nose sticking out of it. From there I started doing my own superheroes. Acro-boy, a really big take-off on Captain America. A lot of aniisation at the time was superheroes because of the Batman TV show, so, we started running across things like the Impossibles, the Super Six, the Mighty Heroes, Johnny Quest--I loved Johnny Quest.

FF: What was your first published work?

RZ: The first thing I had published was a little comic strip of mine, kind of like my brain child, called Silvermane. It was the story of a young boy taken off into a kind of E.R.Burroughs adventure into a strange land. The people that were running the Montrose News, a little local newspaper up in Montrose, Michigan in Genessee County, let me run it for three or four months. They really liked it. They didn't get any response on it, but, they ran it anyway, thinking I'd get somewhere eventually. This was in '77-'78. My first real official printing was in JUST IMAGINE six, which was the tale of the Lindyjax and the Old Tin Box about two years ago.

FF: You were just published in the latest issue of JUST IMAGINE, right?

RZ: Yeah, another Lindyjax story--Lindyjax and the Nowhere Spectator. Lindyjax is almost like my soapbox, I use him when I have something real important to say. Usually his stories run deeper than one dimension or at least I try to make them run deeper. This story, in particular, is a reflection of my former marraige and the time I did it was about a month after the divorce proceedings began. If I were to do it today, it wouldn't be the same. It would be more bitter. But, I also introduced Pomp in there. He's a main character in Silvermane. He's a magical beast and Lindyjax calls him his 'imagination'.

I had a story of Little Michael Taylor and the Dirty Book in JOURNEY #11, and a little inside back cover thing--Little Michael Macalliestaire. And in JOURNEY #13, the Wolverine/Normalman team-up, I had another story, I Am J.B.Space, which is part of a long line of characters I have in space. A long...cast of funny animal creatures that populate this one world that all revolves around the Space Station Heep.

FF: How did you come up with the idea of the Aniverse?

RZ: Um. A friend of mine, Susan Van Camp, and I were knocking around the idea of doing a character together, we devised J.B.Space, came up with the S.S.Heep and everything else kind of fell in around it. So, now there's a whole cast and crew of characters that populate the Aniverse.

FF: What about the Tinker Talon character you're doing for the Fanzine, how did you come up with that idea?

RZ: He's a creation of my own that I patterned after somebody that was pretty close in my life. Kind of a recluse, almost a hermit, but, not quite. He's very chaotic. His mind, if it's on one thing, is very organized, but, his chain of thought is always jumping tracks. He could do anything if he wanted to, but, he starts doing this, then starts this, then finishes something else, then does that, then goes back to what he originally started on...

What I would like to do eventually is to do a book very similar to the format used in JOURNEY, you know, four color, glossy cover with newsprint, black and white interior called either J.B.SPACE which would eventually include all of the Aniversal characters, or like an umbrella title like TALES FROM THE ANIVERSE. It would be a lot easier to jump around, start something new as soon as one story was finished, introduce a new character and if there was solid write-ins on him, suddenly he's got his own series in the book. I've even taken it as far as thinking about farming out assignments to anyone that was interested. A kind of set-up where the universe was created, the characters were created, you could bring in your own characters if you wanted to, you could draw or write or letter or whatever. I would just love to see George Perez do Retro Ram, John Byrne do a J.B.Space episode, Keith Giffen do a Drakestar or Lindyjax story.

FF: What projects are you concentrating on right now?

RZ: Well, I'm doing Corona, I'm going to be working on Tinker Talon. I'm also half-working up a proposal using the Aniversal characters and I'm going to start at the top and work down. I'd also like to get the Superials out, but, I can't seem to find anybody who's interested or anybody who's serious enough to take a look at a superhero strip that might be a little different, a little unique, unusual. I get the feeling that everybody wants the same old stuff. I'd also like to do Little Micheal Taylor eventually, though it's not something that's really driving me to run out and do. I'd much rather get the Aniverse book and the superhero book out first.

END.

HEROES UNKNOWN

Mike Kitchen

NEXUS © 1985 FIRST COMICS

This month's hero should not be unknown, yet I'm sure that many of you haven't heard of him. Let me introduce you to the newest addition to the First Comics team. Would you welcome, please... NEXUS.

Nexus is the product of two great talents. Mike Baron writes the tales, while Steve (the dude) Rude illustrates them. Together, they have led Nexus into two major changes in its life.

Nexus started out in a black and white magazine, which was published by Capital Publications Inc. in 1981. The format lasted three issues, the last of which contained a "flex-comic" (otherwise known as a record). The record dramatized the story as if it were an old-time radio program.

Then, in 1983, Capital changed the Nexus title into a four color comic book. The coloring process and overall look of the book was far superior. This lasted for six issues, at which Capital suspended operations.

However,great news was reported at the 1984 Chicagocon. Baron and Rude's NEXUS, along with Baron's second hit, THE BADGE, was to be picked up by First Comics (and to coin a phrase from Monty Python, "there was much rejoicing"). But let's now turn our attention to the "hero" of the book.

Horatio Hellpup grew up on the moon called Ylum. When he was five, his mother died of starvation in one of the many corridors that was part of thedecking ba
part of the docking bay in which the Hellpups lived. In his early teens, he learned about his father. General Theodore Hellpup felt that in order to save the planet Vradic, it had to be destroyed. He ordered and was responsible for the millions that died the day Vradic was obliterated. After finding all this out, Heratio had the dream.

The dream let Heratio relive his father's experience, and proclaimed that his father was a murderer. It drained Horatio of his physical energies, so he woke and crawled to the hour-glass-shaped tank that was part of the docking facility. Heratio always used the tank when he was weak or ill, so he plunged in for relief from the dream. Unfortunetly, it became worse. The pain stayed with him and it was if the millions that died by his father's hands were haunting him.

Then the vision of his two Ylum-born playmates, Alpha and Beta, appeared. They informed Heratio that if he wished to relieve the pain, he must "eliminate the curse". Heratio left the tank and tearfully executed his father.

Later, another dream attacked Heratio. Once again, he entered the tank where the dream became clearer and his purpose more defined. He learned that he was Nexus. When he left the tank, the costume was hanging in the room. He put it on and knew his destiny.

Nexus's home on Ylum has become a refuge for those who have become religiously or political persecuted due to the death of the evil being in power. This creates a unique cast of characters, from which many subplots could developpe.

If you've never read a NEXUS comic book before, you have missed one of the best comics in the industry. So get down to that local comic shop and pick up the latest issue, and start following the adventures of Nexus, his girlfriend Sandra, and the young Thine warrior Judah Maccabee, an individual who patterened his life after the "Great Nexus" You won't be sorry.

THIS IS BARBRA WALRUS FOR THE ANIVERSAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, BEGINNING A SIX PART SPECIAL REPORT TO ANSWER THE BURNING QUESTION...

WHO IS TINKER TALON?

THIS TOUR OF THE ANI-VERSE WAS CONCEIVED AND CONDUCTED BY: RANDY ZIMMERMAN

VERY LITTLE SEEMS ACTUALLY KNOWN ABOUT THIS RECLUSIVE ENIGMA. THESE ARE THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM...

AT THE END OF THE MAMMALIAN-AVIAN WAR THERE WAS SEEN, THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN ANIVERSE, AN APPARENTLY WORTHLESS SPACE HEAP THAT WOULD APPEAR ANY PLACE AT ANY TIME!

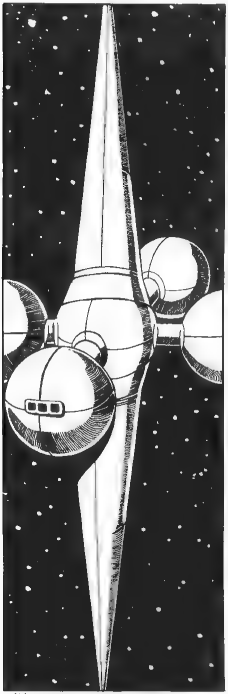
ITS PILOT WAS AN OMINOUS FIGURE WHO HAS SINCE BECOME KNOWN AS "TINKER TALON!" THIS IS THE ONLY VIDCLIP WE WERE ABLE TO FIND OF THIS CURIOUS HERMIT.

GET THAT CAMERA OUT OF MY FACE! NOW!!!

KILL!

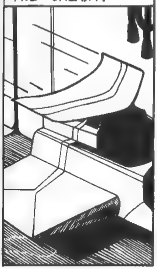
CNS.

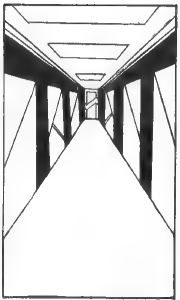
I DECIDED TO DELVE INTO THE PERSONALITY OF THIS "ENIGMA." WHY IS HE SUCH A RECLUSE? WHAT IS HE AFRAID OF, OR PERHAPS, WHAT IS HE HIDING?



MY SOURCES INDICATED I SHOULD BEGIN MY SEARCH ON THE **SPACE STATION HEEP**...

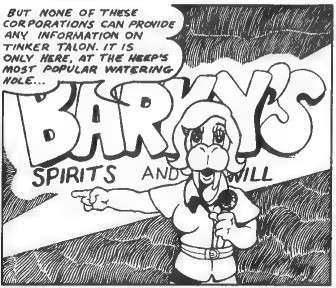
CENTRALLY LOCATED BETWEEN FIVE MAJOR SYSTEMS, THE S.S. HEEP HAS BECOME THE CENTER OF TRADE IN THIS SECTOR OF THE GALAXY.

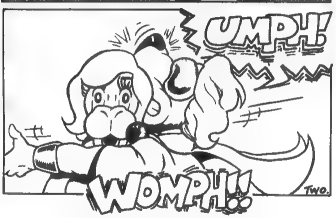




IN FACT, NEARLY ALL OF THE LEADING CORPORATIONS IN THE ANI-VERSE MAINTAIN OFFICES HERE ON "THE HEEP".

BUT NONE OF THESE CORPORATIONS CAN PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON TINKER TALON. IT IS ONLY HERE, AT THE HEEP'S MOST POPULAR WATERING HOLE...





UH, PARDON ME!
YOU CLUMSY DOLT!! WHY DONT YOU...
MAY I BE OF SERVICE DEAR LADY?
YOU MUST FORGIVE MY CLUMSY FRIEND, HE HAS HAD ALOT ON HIS FEEBLE MIND AS OF LATE.
OH, I SEE.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM B.O. WULF. AT YOUR SERVICE! AND THIS IS MY UNCOORDINATED FRIEND, J.B. SPACE! WE'RE FREELANCE DELIVERY PILOTS!!
WHOOP!
THUMPA! THUMPA! THUMPA!
OUCH!!
I AM BARBRA WALRUS FOR A.B.C. NEWS. I'M DOING AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON TINKER TALON.
TINKER TALON? DON'T KNOW HIM.
TINKER? I MADE A DELIVERY FOR HIM ONCE.
A DELIVERY? COULD YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS?
HRUMPH! IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME, I'LL BE IN THE BAR!
SURE! THE DELIVERY WAS A ROBOT DROID FOR BARKY, HERE AT THE BAR!
... AND STAY OUT!
WOOMPH!
WOMP!
THAT'S HIM NOW!!
THREE.

BOBBY WOLF. YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE WAY!
MOAN!
THIS IS SPICKET! BARKY'S MOBILE BARTENDER AND PART TIME BOUNCER!
HEY, ARE YOU BARBRA WALRUS?
ERR... YES I AM!
FOLD!
SSRN!
CLICK!
WHIRR
FWAP
PTOING
FING
"IT'S A PPLEASURE TO MEET Y-Y-YOU!
ERR... LIKE WISE!
C'MON IN. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU T-TO B-B-B-BARKY!!
FOUR.

A JARNOVIAN JUICER?!! KID, YOU GOT ANY I. D. ?!!
;GULP!;
B-B-B-BARKY, TH-THIS IS B-B-B-B...
BARBRA WALRUS? WOW! A CELEBRITY, HERE IN MY OWN WATER-HOLE! HOW CAN I HELP YOU MA'AM?!!
WHAT A POODLE!
YOU COULD TELL OUR VIEWERS WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE "ENIGMA" CALLED TINKER TALON.
WELL LADY WHAT I KNOW ABOUT "TINKER" COULD FILL A COUPLE OF HOURS!
BE WITH ME FOR MY NEXT BROAD-CAST WHEN I INTER-VEIVV BARKY, WHO IS PERHAPS TINKER TALON'S ONLY TRUE FRIEND. FOR A.B.C. I'M BARBRA WALRUS. GOOD NEWS.
FIVE.

(...continued from page 5)

this continuity thing had been carried too far.

Recently the Marvel Reality has been collapsing in on itself. The Inhumans have been moved to the moon. The majority of the Eternals and Deviants have left Earth also. Tigra mentions in WEST COAST AVENGERS #3 that the Cat People have departed, where as yet unrevealed. All vampires were eliminated by Dr. Strange. Bifrost the rainbow bridge that connected Asgard with Earth has been shattered, making travel between the two very difficult. I gather from the various news items I've read that the Savage Land is to be destroyed by Terminus in the next few issues of the AVENGERS. Are the Atlanteans next to be written into comics history now that the Sub-Mariner is no longer directly connected with them?

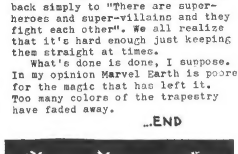
All of this indicates that a new policy has been adopted by Marvel The EArth as presented in their pages is returning to the original conception as being the same as real Earth, again except for super-heroes and villains.

Is this good or bad? I will admit to missing the Eternals and the Savage Land. I very much enjoyed the vast scope of Marvel Earth. I loved the inter-locking of the Deviants with the Subterraneans. But I've been following nearly all of Marvel's titles for a very long time now. I consider myself somewhat or an expert on Marvel history.

How do new readers feel, readers who started in 1979 or even more recently? There is so much they don't know about Marvel Earth and may never know unless they can spend a fortune on back issues. Perhaps for their sake it's best Marvel go back simply to "There are superheroes and super-villains and they fight each other". We all realize that it's hard enough just keeping them straight at times.

What's done is done, I suppose. In my opinion Marvel Earth is poorer for the magic that has left it. Too many colors of the trapestry have faded away.

..END



CRISIS CRITIQUE?
By: Mike Kitchen

Ralph and Stu told me to do a critique and to gaze into my crystal ball (no offense Unknown Swami) to guess what is going to change in the DC CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.

Though only #1 is out, there is a definite feeling that something big is going to happen in this maxi-series. George Perez is the master with the pencil and I'm glad he's taken the time off from the Titans to do the series.

As to what is going to happen, I can only speculate.

-Earth C- will be destroyed, but the Doo Crew will seek refuge in the Changling mansion, and no one will notice.

-Jonah Hex will be thrown into the future, leaving him without a purpose.

-Dr. Fate Spector, and Deadman will team up and become a superteam called "THE HUMAN BUCTERS" (that's for you, S.)

-Swampthing will not be effected by the crisis and really won't care about the changes.

-It will be discovered that the true origin of the Legion of Super Heroes will be, when the Titans, the Outsiders and Infinity Inc., all become one group.

Really fans, I don't know what's going to happen, and I really don't want to guess. I just want to sit back, read each issue, and laugh, scream, cry, or enjoy the events as they take place. It should be a fun year.

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TOP 36

comics cover dated **APRIL**

Rank	Last Mo.	TITLE
1	14	FANTASTIC FOUR
2	6	X-MEN
3	15	GROO
4	3	THOR
5	2	SWAMP THING
6	9	NEW MUTANTS
7	—	MEGATON MAN
8	30	AMAZING SPIDERMAN
9	20	TALES OF THE NEW TEEN TITANS
10	1	NEW TEEN TITANS
11	24	ALPHA FLIGHT
12	11	JON SABLE FREELANCE
13	—	VIGILANTE
14	4	AMERICAN FLAGG
15	—	THE THING
16	—	DETECTIVE COMICS
17	—	BADGER
18	18	SISTERHOOD OF STEEL
19	12	WEB OF SPIDERMAN
20	—	INFINITY, INC.
21	29	BATMAN
22	19	SPECTACULAR SPIDEY
23	13	BLUE DEVIL
24	17	DREADSTAR
25	22	AVENGERS
26	28	IRON MAN
27	10	POWER PACK
28	23	LEGION OF SUPERHEROES
29	21	GRIMJACK
30	—	JUSTICE LEAGUE
31	16	THE ELEMENTALS
32	—	ZOT!
33	—	ALIEN LEGION
34	7	NEXUS
35	5	JUDGE DREDD
36	—	V

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EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

COMICS COVER DATED **JUNE**

Now you, too, can participate in Michigan's newest most talked about fanzine. Just fill in this handy-dandyform ABOVE to have your vote accounted for. So remember if you want to see your favorite book on top (where it belongs), get involved and vote for 'em.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT NECCESARILY THE OPINION OF THE PUBLISHERS OF FANTASTIC FANZINE OR THEIR SUBSCRIBERS.

Well, sports--oops! I mean comic book fans, it looks like da battle fer da Southeastern Michigan Comic Convention Title is finally over, with Michael Lester apparently da winner and Gary Sibley's Vintage Con folding under da pressure. Even tho' last month da Snoop here was complainin' 'bout too many cons, a part a' me really hates ta see one go. But, ya can only have so much of a good thing.

Durin' da so-called 'Con Ware', things were supposedly said and done and feelin's were hurt. Thru' me unnergroun' rat network, da Snoop has heard many rumours 'bout dis subject. Please, remember dat da followin' is only rumours, so, if ya Ain't inta gossip, read no further. Dis is just how da Snoop seen things from da outside.

Back in early '83, da Snoop started attendin' the local cons. Dere was two runnin' at da time; da Nostalgia Con was run by Mary an' Mike Brown, and da Encore Con by Michael Lester. Both o' dese shows was well attended and they was far enough apart so's not ta conflict wit' one another, being as how they was on alternating months. Dis went on fine 'til da Spring/Summer of '84, when da Brothers Brown decided to get out a' da conventioning biz and passed on da scheduling dates fer da Nostalgia Con to Mr. Sibley. He renamed da show Vintage Con an' things looked like they would continue like it always had.

De Summer of '84 was now here in full and Gary Reed o' da Reader's Exchange had scheduled his first annual King Kon to be held in September, advertised as having many guests and special events. Also scheduled on da same date was da September Encore Con. Now, who's con was scheduled first ain't too clear to da Snoop, but, at de Vintage Con held in August, Mr. Sibley was heavily promo-ing da King Kon, saying, and I remember this distinctly, "If you want to attend a real convention, go down to the King Kon."

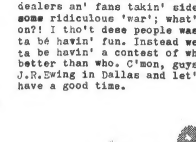
Also, during da Vintage Con Famous Auction, tickets and a dealer's table for da King Kon was some a' da items on da block. Da look a' shock on Lester's face was noticable. There was no mention a' da Encore Con. Lester left da show right after da auction. Da battle lines had been drawn.

After this , strange things started happening. First, Lester was barred from entering any more Vintage shows. Then, Lester started up a west side show, da X-Tra-Va-Con, to muscle in on Sibley's 'territory'. Da X-Tra-Va-Con an' da Vintage Con was no more'n three miles apart!

Eventually, Vintage Con attendance started dropping, while da X-Tra-Va-Con was steady or growin'. Finally, due to pressure and/or headaches, Sibley decided to hold a charity show later dis year (which I applaud), and re-evaluate his situation before doing any more conventions.

After this, there was some rumours circulatin' 'bout Steve Sundahl takin' over da Vintage Con schedule to try an' run Lester out a' business. But, at da last minute, he pulled out 'cuz a' (unrevealed) personal problems.

So, as a' this writin', Mr. Michael Lester is da undisputed king of da convention circuit in dis area, but, da Snoop has ta wonder, at what cost? All a' these dealers an' fans takin' sides in some ridiculous 'war'; what's goin' on?! I tho't dese people was supposed ta be havin' fun. Instead we seems ta be havin' a contest of who's better than who. C'mon, guys, leave J.R.Ewing in Dallas and let's all have a good time.



THE BRITISH ARE COMING

by: Joseph Daughrity

2000A.D., JUDGE DREDD, DR. WHO, WARRIOR, ROBOHUNTER, MARVELMAN, and AXEL PRESSBUTTON. What do these excellent titles have in common? Why they're British imports of course! Comics from the U.K. are becoming hot items in America and along with them thier creators. Who in fandom can open up a zine and not find something on Brian Bolland, Alan Moore, or Dave Gibbons featured in it?

Though Dr. Who and Judge Dredd may lead the pack of British characters quickly gaining popularity in America, thier positions may be challanged in '85. By who, all the Dreddies ask? Well by Warrior's Marvelman soon to be published by Eclipse comics of sunny California. This middle-aged hero's adventures will reprint, in color, MM's early appearances in Warrior as chronicled by Alan Moore (of SWAMP THING fame) and Alan Davis. Much can be said of Marvelman but I think that should be reserved for Mike Kitchen's HEROES UNKNOWN column.

Comicbooks in the U.K. are presented quite diffrently than those here in America. First and foremost is their love of anthology titles (those titles featuring many short stories). 2000 A.D. and Warrior are both anthology books, 2000A.D.'s strips include D.R. & Quinch, Strotium Dog, and occasionaly a Dredd tale. Warrior boast of V for Vendetta, Marvelman, and Big Ben the man with no time for crime, to name a few.

Secondly weekly books are popular overseas. These are often printed on cheap newsprint with more emphasis on quality than physical appearance. These books usually have quite a large page count. While on the subject DC has announced that we, American fans, may be seeing a weekly comic featuring thier newly purchased Charlton characters as of yet that project is still in it's planning stage.

Despite thier quality and growing popularity,British imports remain hard to find items, with the exception of Dredd (which is printed by Eagle publications of America). Thier rarity cannot be blamed totally on distributors and dealers however! If the demand for these books were greater perhaps importing would be increased? Of course I am not suggesting we forsake our American publishers but let's give U.K. a shot!

-Joe

NEXT: A report on the Japanese invasion!

Real Comic Collectors...

1) Real comic collectors never buy comics off the rack in drug stores or on corner newstands, only at cons or comic specialty outlets.
2) Real comic collectors never use Mylar snuge and acid free backer boards.
3) Real comic collectors have a complete run of at least one First comic.
4) Real comic collectors store our collection in cheap 2.5 mil storage bags and prop them against dictionary volumes.
5) Real comic collectors never join subsciption services.
6) Real comic collectors never use computer programs to store pertinent data about our collections.
7) Real comic collectors never purchase comics based upon robots, movies or real people.
8) Real comic collectors always read the letters page before the story.

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